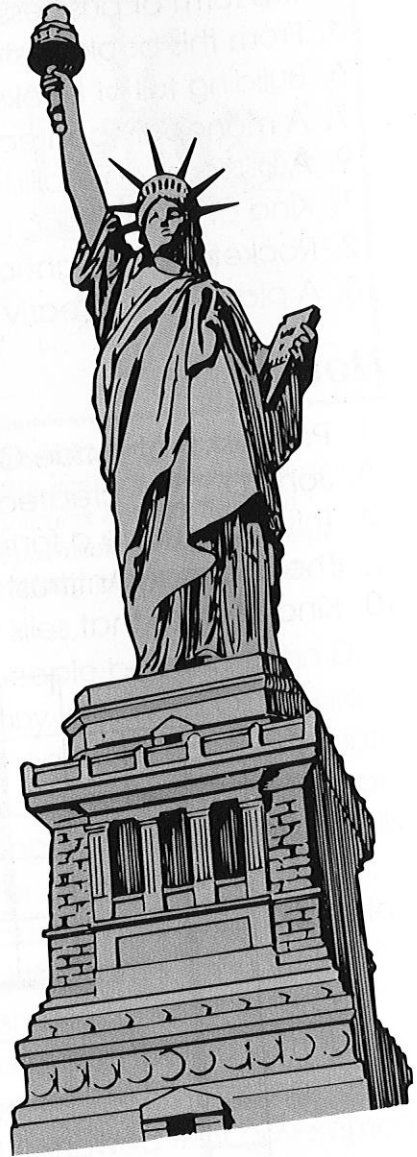


# Immigration

After the Civil War and through the early years of the twentieth century, a great wave of people came to live in the United States from other countries. Before 1880, most of these immigrants were from northwestern European countries including Ireland, Britain, Germany, and the Scandinavian nations. After 1880, more and more came from southeastern Europe, from such countries as Italy, Greece, Poland, and Russia.

Late in the 1800s, little open land remained for farming, but the rapidly growing cities offered jobs in factories. Poor immigrants lived in crowded conditions, many in poorly built apartment buildings called tenements. They worked for low wages, often in sweatshops. These were small factories where hours were long and the pay low. Most immigrants felt that education was the key to a better life. Immigrant children filled the public schools, and many adults went to school at night.

Many of the immigrants who settled on the West Coast were Asian. Chinese people first arrived in large numbers to prospect for gold in 1849, and, later, to work on the railroads. Chinese workers laid most of the track for the Central Pacific Railroad, which ran from California eastward to Utah, where it joined the Union Pacific to become the first transcontinental railroad—a railroad spanning across the continent. Many Japanese people came to the United States to work on orchards and farms. Both Japanese and Chinese immigrants faced prejudice—negative opinions about them because of their race. In 1882, Congress passed the first of a set of laws to keep Chinese people out of the country. In the 1920s, Congress decided to control all immigration through quotas—limits on the number of immigrants from a region or country. The quotas ended three centuries of unlimited immigration. The quota system based on country of origin was done away with in 1965.



*The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, greets immigrants in New York harbor.*

Read the sentences about immigration.  
Then complete the sentences by filling in each blank.  
Use the word list if you need help.

- ★ \_\_\_\_\_ gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States as a gift in 1886.
- ★ Chinese workers helped build the first \_\_\_\_\_ railroad.
- ★ In sweatshops, hours were \_\_\_\_\_.
- ★ The \_\_\_\_\_ of Liberty stands in New York harbor.
- ★ Congress passed the first \_\_\_\_\_ to keep Chinese people out of the U.S. in 1882.
- ★ Someone who comes from another country to live permanently in a new country is called an \_\_\_\_\_.
- ★ Most immigrants came from \_\_\_\_\_ Europe before 1880.
- ★ A negative opinion of a group of people based on race is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- ★ The quota system was designed to \_\_\_\_\_ all immigration.
- ★ Many Asian immigrants settled on the \_\_\_\_\_ Coast.

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### Word List

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control  
France

immigrant  
law  
long

northwestern  
prejudice  
Statue

transcontinental  
West